

THE PORT MILL TIMES

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Wm. R. Bradford, Editor and Publisher.



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THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1921.

The vote by which the national house of representatives Monday night passed the bill to prevent the sale of beer as a medicine shows that the prohibition forces are in the saddle in Washington and are alert to the wishes of the country in allowing no opening wedge to be inserted in the liquor laws. All this talk about beer being good for the sick is so much bunk—it is principally useful to fatten Germans and hogs—and was spread broadcast over the country by the liquor interests who foresaw that if they could induce Congress to modify the prohibition laws by allowing beer to be sold on physicians' prescriptions there would be opened a thousand and one ways for the sale of beer and that eventually it would result in the undermining of the whole of the prohibition laws. The anti-prohibition agitation, confined in the main to the big cities which have large German and Jewish populations, will have to be watched, however. The victory in the house of representatives Monday night does not mean that the agitation is at an end. On the contrary, the liquor interests are rich and powerful and it will require constant vigilance on the part of the Anti-Saloon league and other societies and individuals promoting good government to checkmate the moves of their organizations and lobbyists in Washington and elsewhere.

The power of the American press to interest the public in a particular subject is strikingly illustrated in the prize fight which is to take place at Jersey City Saturday between Dempsey, American, and the Frenchman Carpentier. For the last month or six weeks practically all the daily papers and many of the weeklies have published article after article describing the ring prowess of the two men and telling of the prospects of each to win the fight. The press associations have daily sent out dispatches from the training quarters of both men, to be supplemented in many of the larger papers by articles from special writers. So it has come to pass that however distasteful prize-fighting may be to the average man, he has recently seen so much in print about the two men to meet July 2 for the heavyweight championship of the world that unwittingly and unwillingly he feels a certain amount of interest in the outcome of the fight, albeit he is aware of the fact that it will draw together more spec-uglies, low-brows and other species of thugs and toughs than have ever before assembled in one place. This interest has been heightened by the impression many of the press writers have sought, not unsuccessfully, to create that there is involved in the fight a matter of patriotism, that should Dempsey be defeated it will mean humiliation for America, and that therefore it is the duty of every citizen of the country to at least hope the Frenchman will have to take the count. There is nothing to this line of reasoning. Ordinarily Americans, however degrading and immoral they consider prize-fighting, would prefer to see an American hold the championship, but in the fight between Dempsey and Carpentier to many it is

a matter of no moment whether the American wins. There is the unsavory odor about Dempsey of having been a slacker in the World war and notwithstanding his acquittal of the charge by a federal jury, that jury did not do the thinking of the country. Carpentier, on the other hand, early was in the trenches for his native country and did his duty from first to last as a soldier. For that there are many on this side of the Atlantic who will wish him success in the fight Saturday.

Census figures recently made public give the surprising information that 45 million of the 105 million people in this country are affiliated with some religious denomination. Church membership has doubled in the last 20 years, whereas the population of the United States has increased but 63 per cent. This growing realization of spiritual value must soon have its effect on this age of materialism. This materialism, expressed in eating, drinking, spending, competing in display with one's neighbors, in a general emphasis on exterior trimmings rather than interior values, culminated in such false ideals of life that the inevitable outlet was a clash of arms involving the whole world. Even today it is reflected in a lower standard of morality, in selfishness, in avarice, in gross appetites leading to grosser indulgences. But the pendulum is on the backward swing. There is dawning in the minds of constantly growing millions a vision of life that places the spirit above the material things of life. It may not be a religious renaissance, but it is bound to result in individual realization that a personal readjustment of moral values is the first requisite for a spiritually awakened nation.

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